AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) REPORT #1266 – NOV. 16, 2001

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1266 with a release date of Friday, November 16th, 2001 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio operators respond to a plane crash in New York City and Russia says “No” to No-Code. These stories are first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1266 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAMS HELP IN AFTERMATH OF NYC JETLINER CRASH

Ham radio operators in New York City, still weary from the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks were called out once again. This, after an American Airlines jetliner in route to the Dominican Republic broke up in flight shortly after takeoff from Kennedy Airport. The Airbus A-300 had 265 passangers and crew. It crashed moments after takeoff setting homes ablaze on thrr Rockaway penninsulia. There were no known survivors. We have more in this report:

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When American Airlines Flight 587 crashed just minutes after takeoff from Kennedy Airport in New York City on November 12th, the Salvation Army was one of the first groups to arrive at the disaster scene. It brought in several mobile canteens to help feed rescue workers and residents whose houses had been damaged or destroyed.

The Salvation Army regularly uses ham radio operators in its SATERN network to maintain communications between its units at a disaster site. This being the second disaster to hit New York in two months' time, the Salvation Army Incident Commander asked the SATERN disaster command operator, Carlos Varon, K2LCV,to request additional ham volunteers. Operators were needed to staff the canteens and a mobile command post.

Initially up to a half dozen ham stations were to be set up at various locations near the crash site and another at Salvation Army Headquarters in Manhattan. It was anticipated that the communications mission would last three to four days.

Also, according to ARRL New York City and Long Island Section Manager George Tranos, N2GA, the League's Amateur Radio Emergency Service was on standby for the American Red Cross. Hams were later reported as providing communications support to the Red Cross for its operations.

But getting to any assignment was not easy. New York officials initially feared this was another terror attack and put the city into a near lock-down, closing all airports, bridges and tunnels for several hours after the crash. In addition, the crash site itself was on an island, and access to the area was severely restricted. All this made it difficult for ham volunteers to reach their assignments. Finally, they were all told to gather in one place where they would be escorted in by a Salvation Army command vehicle.

Among those who helped organize the ham radio response was Mark Phillips, KC2ENI, the ARR Emergency Coordinator for Queens County. The Rockaway Command station was Joseph Albertus KB2QLE and Net Control on the 147.090 MHz repeater was Michael Lunetta W2MPL.

From the offices of CQ Magazine, I'm Rich Moseson, W2VU.

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Authorities who found the flight data recorder said it contains information leading to an initial conclusion that mechanical failure of the Airbus jet was the cause of the crash. (W2VU, WB2FXN, K2VMR, N2GA, and communications monitored on the 147.09 repeater)
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RESTRUCTURING: RUSSIA SAYS NYET TO NO-CODE

The Russian Federation has said ‘nyet’ to no-code. According to the W.I.A. Victoria News, the Federation says that there are good reasons for the Amateur Service to continue with Morse as a license requirement for operation below 30MHz. It also says that it has no plans to make any changes to its domestic licence conditions. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Roy Neal. K6DUE, takes a look at the surprise Russian position:

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"Keep the Morse Code." That's the position of The Russian Federation. It was revealed by the International Telecommunications Union on the 12th of October, when that organization released a position document for the World Radio Conference of 2003..

The Russian Federation told the ITU that it supports most changes to International Radio Regulation S-25, which sets forth qualifications for radio amateurs. But, says the Federation, keep the Morse code. Reasons? First a strong belief that Morse testing is the big difference between Amateur Radio and the Russian version of Citizen's Radio Services. The Russian Federation also points out that lowering the code requirement in many other nations has not led to a significant increase in the number of hams in those countries.

The Federation says that it surveyed Russian radio operators and found overwhelming support for retention of the code and the Russians say Morse is one of the most effective means of communication in emergencies with clear benefits in reducing interference on the high frequency bands.

What does it mean to the rest of the world, this decision to retain Morse testing? Jim Linton, VK3PC, is the author of Australia's "Morse Code Watch." He says the Russian Federation's position can be accomodated easily. This because any new I-T-U Radio Regulation S-25 to come out of the World Radio Conference in 2003 will set only a minimum qualification standard for radio amateurs. It will not force that standard on any country.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Roy Neal, K6DUE

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As previously reported, the IARU Administrative Council voted on October 8th to support dropping Morse as a qualifying criterion for high frequency access. It says that Morse testing is no longer relevant to the healthy future of amateur radio. (W.I.A. Victoria, W5YI Report)

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THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARCONI'S HISTORIC TRANS-ATLANTIC RADIO TRANSMISSION

I’m Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles, with a late breaking bit of radio history.

December 12th will mark the 100th anniversary of the first Trans-Atlantic radio transmission by Guglielmo Marconi. To commemorate the event, The Marconi Radio Club and The Falmouth Amateur Radio Association radio operators are making plans to celebrate this important historical event from December 11th to the 16th. And in this very rare recorded interview supplied by Q-News, Marconi himself commented on the his first contact across the Atrlantic pond. Take a listen:

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Audio of Marconi commentary here. No text available. Please listen to audio newscast. Links are at http://www.arnewsline.org.
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The signal Marconi referred to was a series of the letter S transmitted using CW across the Atlantic from Poldhu, Cornwall England to St John's, Newfoundland. For this 100th anniversary, the Marconi Radio Club will be using the call sign W1AA slash CC and will be operating from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, U.S.A.. This was the location of Marconi's 1903 Trans-Atlantic radio station. Marconi's 1903 call sign back then was "C C"

For exact times, frequencies and modes of operation for W1AA slash CC go to www.qrz.com/database?callsign=w1aa) (K1VV, Marconi Radio Club W1AA. Marconi audio supplied by Q-News)

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BREAK 1

This is ham radio news coming to you from the United States of America. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world, including the X-Warn repeater serving Green County Ohio.

(5 Sec Pause Here)

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AMERICA AT WAR: G3 MAY HAVE TO WAIT

It now appears very unlikely that new G 3 personal communications technology will share the same spectrum worldwide. Amateur Radio Newsline’sa Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, tells us the U-S military has other ideas:

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While Europe and Asia have reached accord on commen frequencies for the introduction of G 3, the September 11th terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington have convinced the Departrment of Defense to take a different position. The DoD now says that it is not in the national interest to relinquist spectrum in the 1710 to 1850 Mhz band just because that happens to be the same spectrum to be used commercially overseas.

According to the latest issue of the W5YI Report the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association says that the Department of Defense will encounter interference from 3 G wireless devices but the DoD disagrees. It says that whatever equipment it has is far more powerful. The DoD adds that it may interfere with 3 G cellular telephones oversaeas but that the cellphones will not adversly impact on the military or its operations.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ.

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In other words, over here in the United States, if G 3 wants 1710 to 1850 Mhz -- its going to have to wait. (W5YI Report)

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AMERICA AT WAR: EMERGENCY CELLULAR TELEPHONE PLAN

Verizon Wireless and the United States government are in the final stages of a deal that would give some emergency officials priority access to the company's cellular network. Under the agreement, about 2,000 federal, state and local officials would be given a code that allows them priority over others trying to make calls.

The system, intended to be used only in times of crisis, would be operational in New York, Washington and Salt Lake City, the site of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Verizon has submitted a request to the Federal Communications Commission, which must review and approve some elements of the plan. According to a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity, others trying to make calls could get busy signals because of the plan. (Published news reports)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC TO CB OPERATOR – TIME TO PAY THE FINE

The FCC has told a mid-West C-B operator that he has to pay the price of breaking the rules. This after the agency affirms a $9500 Monetary Forfeiture issued last summer to Klaus D. Kramer of Oklahoma City Oklahoma.

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The Klaus Kramer story goes back to last February. This is when the FCC received several complaints of a CB radio station operating with excessive power in Oklahoma City. The Dallas office sent agents to locate the source of the transmissions. In the course of the two day investigation the agents traced transmissions to three locations including Mikes Cycle Shop. The latter is a business owned by Klaus Kramer.
The agents conducted inspections that revealed that Mr. Kramer violated Section

301 of the Communications Act by operating radio transmitters without authorization. Kramer admitted to making the transmissions and voluntarily relinquished the equipment. On March 12th the Dallas office issued two Notices of Violation to Kramer. In response to the Notice's of Violation, Kramer acknowledged the violations and indicated that he would discontinue operation of the station. On July 13th, the Commission's Dallas Texas field office issued the Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $9500 to Kramer for the noted violations. Kramer filed a response to the NAL on August 14th claiming that the amount was excessive.
In denying Kramers appeal, the FCC's November 8th order says that its Dallas office has complaints regarding similar operations on two separate occasions in March 1998 and October 1999. In both of those instances, Kramer also voluntarily the offending equipment and on at least one occasion stated that the violations would not be repeated. None the less, the FCC says that its investigation has revealed that Mr. Kramer again: "...violated our rules" in February 2001. Thus says the government, imposition of the $9500 is not excessive and is proper in this case.
For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Wilbanks, KC5MFA, reporting.
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Kramer was given the usual thirty days to pay the fine. He also has the option of further appeals. (FCC)
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ENFORCEMENT: FCC TO STATION OWNER - YOU ARE OFF THE AIR

Hams are not the only ones feeling the pinch of the Federal Communications Commission action. Five Midwestern radio stations have gone off the air after the agency denies an appeal by their owner who the FCC says was found unfit to continue to operate them.

Back in 1994 the owner was convicted of crimes involving minors. He was sentenced to an eight-year term and was released in 1999 after serving five. Last July he was told by the FCC that he no longer held the minimum requisite requirements to remain a Commission license. Also, that he would lose his licenses to operate the stations within 90 days.

Last month he petitioned the FCC to allow him to continue operating the stations. The FCC denied his request on October 3rd and the stations stopped broadcasting just after midnight October 4th. The FCC says it plans to auction off the station licenses. The owner is reportedly considering an appeal. (FCC, other published reports)

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FCC NEWS: MASS MEDIA BUREAU APPOINTMENT

Nina Shafran has been named Deputy Chief of the FCC's Mass Media Bureau Audio Division. Shafran joins the Commission from the staff of the Dow, Lohnes & Albertson communications group where she specialized in broadcast matters. (FCC)

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HAMVENTION UPDATE 2002: DISPELLING RUMORS

If you are one of those who heard a rumor that the Dayton Hamvention is

leraving its longtime home at the HARA Arena, then forget it. Its nothing more than the normally irresponsible Internet rumor mill working overtime. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

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According to planners posting to the official Hamvention website, the erroneous rumor began the week of Hamvention 2001. This, after it was was allegedly printed in a Chicago newspaper that the HARA Arena had been sold. It had not been.

The Hamvention Committee spent the weekend of the 2001 event reassuring its vendors and attendees that HARA had not been sold. Also, that Hamvention's contract had not been "bought out" and that it would be back at HARA.

But that’s not all. The HARA Arena management issued its own formal statement. It also satated that the HARA had not been sold, and that it will not be razed. We at Amateur Radio Newsline were there. We heard it first hand.

Most important the HARA folks reitterated what the Dayton Amateur Radio Association has stated. The Hamvention will be there as promised. And as those of you who received last months mass mailing already know, the dates are May 17th, 18th and 19th, 2002. We will see you there.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Bill Pasternak WA6ITF in Los Angeles.

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So much for the rumors on the Newsgroups and other internet gossip spots. The real story is always at www.hamvention.org. (DARA)

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BREAK 2

From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website - www.arnewsline.org.

(5 sec pause here)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: DTV ROLLOUT UPDATE

Roughly two-thirds of commercial television stations plan to broadcast a digital signal by a federal government deadline of May 1, 2002. This, according to the National Association of Broadcasters.

In a report to the Federal Communications Commission, the industry group said that many of those that won't make the deadline are waiting for equipment to be delivered and expect to have digital broadcasts on the air in the months afterward. But some stations in smaller markets are having a hard time paying for the upgrade, the association says.

Right now, most home television sets in use receive only analog signals. But congress has mandated that broadcasters must give up their analog channels to

the government by 2006. As a result, there are concerns that consumers won't have made the costly upgrade to
televisions that can receive digital signals by that date.   (News release)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ISS TALKS TO WISCONSIN SCHOOL

Students at Tremper High School in Kenosha, Wisconsin, asked questions the morning of November 6th of the International Space Station Expedition Three Commander Frank Culbertson that got some very personal responses. Culbertson told the teens that he certainly did not expect as much to be happening on Earth during his stay at the orbital outpost, in obvious reference to terrorist attacks. He said that he wished that he could have been with his family during the most stressful times, but he took comfort in knowing that they were strong, and could get by.

On a brighter note, Culbertson said that his current mission is the high point of his space career. He added that he hoped some of students at Tremper High can do the same thing some day.

In response to another question, Culbertson said that he hoped to see cheaper access to space, and hoped for a manned Mars mission and a permanent lunar base during his lifetime.

The contact was an event facilitated through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station project, sponsored by AMSAT, ARRL and NASA. In all, fourteen students asked one question each during the contact. About 60 other students and a few teachers witnessed the event in person, while M-S-N-B-C carried the audio portion of the contact live over its website. (ARISS release by Gene Chapline, K5YFL)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW ANTENNAS HEADING TOWARD THE ISS

The International Space Station could have a new set of ham band antennas by early in 2002. The antennas are expected to be trtansported to te ISS this month and installed around the perimeter of the Service Module. This will give the I-S-S ham station high frequency, VHF, UHF and microwave capabilities.

The most interesting of all the new antennas is the high frequency array. Its made up of a two and one half meter long flexable tape that will definately work on 10 meters and holds posibilities on 15 and 20 as well.   This particular antenna was a joint effort of the Italian, Russian and United States ARISS design team. (ARISS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: STARSHINE NEEDS TELEMETRY REPORTS

Ground controllers of the Starshine-3 ham radio satellite are seeking volunteer amateur radio operators and others worldwide to monitor and report telemetry from the recently-launched satellite.   Starshine 3 transmits 9600 bit per second AX-25 protocol packet telemetry every 2 minutes on 145.825 MHz.

The satellite’s primary mission is to involve school children from around the

world in space and radio sciences. Students should be able visually track the satellite during morning and evening passes by recording its telltale mirror flashes and reporting their observations to Project Starshine. To report Starshine 3 telemetry or to learn more about it, please visit http://epulation.com/starshine/starshine3. More information about Project Starshine is available at www.azinet.com/starshine. (STARSHINE vis AMSAT-NA)

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CONTESTS: THE PSK-31 DEATH MATCH

Call it a truly different kind of contest. This, as the Michigan DX Association announces that it will sponsor the PSK-31 Death Match. The dates are December 7th through the 9th and a trophy will be awarded to the highest overall score. Just what is the PSK-31 Death Match and what are its rules? You can find out on the web at www.geocities.com/mdxa1/death match.html (Internet release)

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DX

In DX, a big surprise for 6 meter enthuiasts. Jeramy boot, G4NJH, has the details:

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A combination of high solar flux and low magnetic activity provided world-wide F-layer propagation on 50MHz during the week up to the 4th of November. Strong backscatter and the occasional Sporadic E openings meant that all continents were worked from the UK on 50MHz during the course of the week.

On Tuesday, the 6th of November, a solar coronal mass ejection hit the earth's magnetic field at 0150UTC and triggered widespread auroras. Observers as far south as central California reported seeing vivid displays of the Northern Lights, although we had no reports of visible auroras in the UK at the time of compiling this bulletin.

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As we go to air 6 meters remains a worldwide D-X paradise. More information is on the web at www.rsgb.org and on the subscription VHF reflector. (G4NJH)

In other D-X news word that two Spanish operators will be in Cameroon between the 11th and 23rd of November. The pair will be working on the installation of HF and VHF stations in hospitals and missions. In their spare time they will be on the air as TJ2RSF on the High Frequenvcy bands. Activity will be mainly SSB, with some RTTY and CW. (VHF Reflector)

And Chris Post, N3SIG, who is a Firefighter and EMT in the United States Antarctic Program at the McMurdo Station on Ross Island is now active as KC4/N3SIG until March 2002. Post told the Ohio Penn D-X newsletter that he will be active every other day starting around 2000-2100 Eastern U.S. time primerally using SSB on 20, 18 and 15 meters. All QSL cards go to AI3D and be sure to include an S-A-S-E. (OPDX)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: HAM RADIO IN LEBANON

And finally this week, a look at how ham radio is able to survive in Lebanon. Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, looks at the nation, its licensing system and its Amateur Radio Community:

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Wireless communication was first introduced in Lebanon by French soldiers during the French mandate; consequently, a number of curious and interested Lebanese took on this hobby and started operating under a permit and a call sign provided by the French Authorities.

With Lebanon gaining its independence in 1943, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications become the issuer of the license to own and operate an Amateur station.

 In 2000, there were 230 licensed ham operators in Lebanon, and anyone over 18 years is eligible to acquire a radio amateur license.

Maximum authorised transmitting power is 1,000 watts. The exam is prepared by RAL and is supervised by governmental officials. It comes in three separate parts, which involve multiple choice questions which include theoretical questions on electronics, antennas, and other technical information. Also rules and regulations of amateur radio, and the laws of communication. Also, a test on how to establish a vocal contact over the air.

Their Society is the RAL-- the Radio Amateurs of Lebanon which, like ours represent him or her before the Local authorities and the IARU

From Q-News Australia, I’m Graham Kemp, VK4BB, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Truly an amazing story of how ham radio can survive even in the midst of geo-political problems that have plagued the Middle East for as long as man can remember. (Q-News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline @arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Mert Garlick, N6AWE, saying Happy Thanksgiving, God Bless America, and we thank you for listening." Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2001. All rights reserved.